

Minister Also Tells of FBI Tie to King Killing

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The California black minister who married James Earl Ray and Anna Sandhu Ray said today he was told the FBI was involved in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Rev. James Lawson, pastor of the Holman United Methodist Church, Los Angeles, also confirmed that he will sign an affidavit to be used by lawyer Mark Lane in his efforts to obtain a new trial for Ray.

He said in a telephone interview from Los Angeles the affidavit is on his desk but he has not yet signed it, but that he will.

Mr. Lawson said Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, told him of a conversation that Mr. Lowery had with Rep. Walter Fauntroy, chairman of the House Assassination subcommittee investigating the slaying of Dr. King.

He said Mr. Lowery told him that Mr. Fauntroy told him in early December 1977 "that the FBI killed Dr. King."

"Fauntroy did not say, 'I believe it,'

or 'I think it . . . but, according to the conversation with Mr. Lowery, told him it was known in high circles in Washington . . . was common knowledge in certain levels of Government," Mr. Lawson said.

He said Mr. Fauntroy did not give Mr. Lowery details of the evidence.

This apparently is contrary to what Mr. Lowery is saying now. Wire service reports yesterday quoted him as saying Rep. Fauntroy never told him FBI agents answering to J. Edgar Hoover, late FBI director, killed Dr. King.

Mr. Lawson also said he had talked with Brady Tyson, an aide to Andrew Young, U. S. ambassador to the United Nations, about information Mr. Tyson allegedly gave Daniel Ellsberg about the King assassination.

Mr. Lawson said Mr. Tyson did not give him the same information but merely confirmed that he had given the information to Mr. Ellsberg. Mr. Lawson said he called Mr. Tyson to confirm that he had given information to Mr. Ellsberg.

He said Mr. Tyson told him that Mr. Ellsberg was "a very honest men man of integrity," apparently supporting details of the Ellsberg affidavit.

Mr. Lawson said he thinks the Ellsberg affidavit is "very clear." He said Mr. Ellsberg is not the kind of guy to confuse theory with fact.

This was a reference to Mr. Tyson's claim now that he was giving Mr. Ellsberg his theory of the King killing but was not giving him facts.

Concerning the confusion and contradictory reports of the King assassination, Mr. Lawson asserted that "there is either a major fire or a major suppression of basic information going on.

"It's not Mark Lane's suppression, it's not the black community's suppression. It's government agency . . . people in public life who are suppressing it."

He said he assumes the motive for the "suppression" is that "they know James Earl Ray did not kill Dr. King and they don't want to let out the information."

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